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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 21 | Humidity 77% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 74,102 | Nifty 22,497 | Gold 86,169 | Silver 98,365 | Dollar 87.19 | Euro 95.08 | GBP 112.70

STICKING POINT

Police personnel told they cannot display official labels on private vehicles as it is illegal

PAGE 5

NO HANDS

With nearly 43% of sanctioned posts in forest dept still unfilled, conservation at risk

PAGE 6

Bengaluru emerges as city with highest PM2.5 contribution from transport sector in country — and what is more, the pollution crisis is real, whether it be monsoon, summer or winter

RAIN OR SHINE, CITY'S AIR IS HEAVY

Experts call for urgent policy changes, including stricter emission norms, expansion of public transport

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Bengaluru has emerged as the city with the highest PM2.5 contribution from the transport sector, with alarming figures of 49% in summer, 44% during monsoon, and 37% in winter. This Lok Sabha data underscores the city's growing air pollution crisis, primarily driven by vehicular emissions. Unlike Delhi, where winter smog exacerbates pollution, Bengaluru's problem persists across all seasons, indicating that traffic congestion, outdated vehicle technology, and rapid urbanisation are taking a severe toll on air quality.

The data presented in the Lok Sabha recently stated that Delhi, one of India's most polluted cities, sees 30% transport sector contribution in winter and 20% in summer. While Delhi experiences severe

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"The fact that pollution remains high even during the monsoon suggests that rainfall is not sufficient to curb emissions, making long-term interventions crucial

—City-based environmentalist

Enough of this dump

Residents of areas around Mittaganahalli landfill protest against unspeakable horrors in their area due to mixed waste leachate polluting soil, water

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Residents around Mittaganahalli landfill have had it with the authorities. On Tuesday, they once again gathered to stop trucks from entering their villages and dumping Bengaluru's garbage in their backyard.

Villagers say they have resorted to the extreme measure due to health concerns arising from groundwater and lake contamination due to leachate from the dumping ground.

Locals have blocked the road and are demanding that Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) come up with a permanent solution and stop dumping garbage in the landfill.

"We will not allow BSWML trucks to pass. Let the officials come to the site and inspect it to see the gravity of the situation. Villagers are facing serious health concerns, and many have lost their cattle over the past few months owing to high pollution in lakes in the area," said Ashok S, president of Kannuru Grama Panchayat.

Notably, the grama panchayat has also highlighted the issue in a written complaint to Additional Chief Secretary and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Behind the lens

Museum of Art and Photography is organising a thought-provoking conversation on art, vision, and the power of mobile photography. Designer Janak Mistry will sit down with Rustam Vania to discuss 'DEEP SEE', a book where Mistry has captured the visual journey of India's vibrant diversity. All images in the book were taken using a mobile phone, focusing not on perfection but on seizing fleeting moments. **Where: Mazumdar-Shaw Auditorium, Museum of Art and Photography; When: March 12, 6.30 pm**

02 Augmented art

Sublime Galleria is presenting 'Carpeted Journey Within', featuring innovative art integrated with augmented reality by Fannan Raza. A unique blend of framed carpet art, where augmented reality and audio experiences bring each piece to life. **Where: Sublime Gallery, UB City; When: Opening on March 14**

03 Groove along

Windmills is presenting an electrifying two-night performance by Shake Stew, one of Europe's most exciting contemporary jazz band. Known for their high-energy blend of groove jazz and Afrobeat, the Austrian septet will be bringing their signature sound to India. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: March 14 and 15**

04 Biz brains

MIDAS School of Entrepreneurship is organising Namma Bengaluru Entrepreneurs Meetup, a chance to engage with industry leaders, gain insights from seasoned entrepreneurs, and explore opportunities to collaborate with like-minded individuals. **Where: MIDAS School of Entrepreneurship, Seshadripuram; When: March 11 to March 18**

05 Artistic celebration

National Gallery of Modern Art is organising 'Abhaya - Women Who Dared', an evening of artistic celebration and reflection on the power of women poets, featuring a musical performance and a talk. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Vasanth Nagar; When: March 14, 5 pm**

BU's exam slip up creates a stir

Fine imposed on those responsible for mishap; however, some Academic Council members say fine insufficient, urge stricter action

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Bangalore University (BU) has landed in hot water after a shocking examination blunder. Students who sat for a 30-mark paper are now being graded out of 60 marks due to a question paper mishap. Instead of conducting a re-exam, the university opted for a quick fix by doubling the scores, which has raised eyebrows over its handling of academic integrity. The mishap has sparked serious concerns about the university's exam-setting process and overall accountability.

What went wrong?

BU conducted the 'Tour Guide and Service' examination for BA Tourism students in August. According to the guidelines, the question paper was supposed to be for 60 marks, but the Board of Examiners (BoE) Chairperson mistakenly set the paper for 30 marks instead. A total of 184 students appeared for the exam, and the error came to light only during the assessment process.

Marks doubled instead of re-exam

Following an internal inquiry by the Dean of the Commerce Department, the Academic Council (AC) was advised to find a solution. Given the difficulty of conducting a re-exam for all students, the university decided to double the marks of the 30-mark paper, rather than conducting another test. This decision was discussed and approved in the Academic Council meeting, ensuring that students would not have to reappear for the exam.

> **"Examiners must be extremely cautious while carrying out their duties. A fine is not enough, strict measures should be taken** – Sharavana, an Academic Council member

University official's take

C Srinivas, Registrar (Evaluation), Bangalore University, said that the incident indicated a serious lapse in responsibility. "Question paper setting is a crucial task, and it should be done with complete diligence. The question paper for this subject was handled carelessly, and we have imposed a fine of ₹5,000. Further action has been recommended to the Higher Education Department," he said.

Calls for stricter action

Some Academic Council members believe that a mere ₹5,000 fine is insufficient, and that stricter disciplinary action should be taken against those responsible. "This mistake impacts the future of 180 students. Examiners must be extremely cautious while carrying out their duties. A fine is not enough, strict measures should be taken," said Sharavana, an Academic Council member. BU has also written to the Director of the College Education Department, recommending disciplinary action.

HC mandates validation of caste certificates

The High Court of Karnataka has ruled that individuals from Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) backgrounds must have their caste certificates validated according to law, when seeking public employment, particularly if their parents' certificates lack verification. The court clarified that caste certificates issued under Section 4A of the Karnataka Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes Act, 1990, are not definitive, and do not carry automatic validity. Justice Suraj Govindaraj gave the ruling whilst accepting a petition from Shravana Kumar D Nayak, who heads the State SC/ST Prevention of Bogus Caste Certificate Committee, Kalaburagi.

The case involved the appointment of a candidate, Meeenakshi, as assistant accounts officer in Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited (GESCOM), under ST quota, despite allegations of her belonging to OBC. While the District Caste Verification Committee had rejected her claims, the appellate authority had accepted it. The court nullified the February 27, 2024 order, directing fresh consideration. The court emphasised that whilst caste is inherited by birth into a specific community, parental or ancestral caste merely establishes eligibility for certification and does not legally finalise one's caste status. It stressed that caste certificate verification is compulsory under the 1990 Act, and its rules are meant to protect genuine SC/ST community members from fraudulent claims for reservation benefits. — BMB

Empowering change

The Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Women's Wing (FICCI FLO), Bangalore Chapter, tied up with ICA to train 90 girls under the Tally for Tomorrow initiative. Sudha Murty, MLC, co-founder of Infosys, and a renowned philanthropist gave away certificates to a few of the students.

Double check for quality

Medicines supplied to government hospitals by pharmaceutical companies will be distributed to district, taluk, and primary health centers only after undergoing a second round of laboratory testing to ensure quality, announced Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao. Responding to a query from BJP leaders Dr Talwar Sabanna and CT Ravi, the minister stated that the number of essential and other medicines available in government hospitals has increased from 732 to 1,084. He explained that some life-saving drugs are supplied in very limited quantities, making the tendering process less competitive, as fewer bidders participate. In certain cases, there has been no response despite multiple tender invitations.To address urgent requirements, the government has allowed hospitals to procure medicines at their level with appropriate approvals from competent authorities to ensure timely distribution to the public. Additionally, the government plans to conduct on-site inspections of pharmaceutical manufacturing units every 2 to 3 years to further ensure quality control. — BMB

High demand, higher prices

With bird flu cases detected in poultry farms in neighbouring districts, many meat lovers are shifting to fish, leading to a surge in demand and prices. Previously, popular freshwater fish varieties like Rohu, Catla, and Gourami were sold at ₹150 to ₹190 per kg. Now, prices have jumped to ₹220 to ₹300 per kg. Similarly, prices of marine fish like Bangude and Pomfret have also increased. Due to the high cost of mutton (₹750 per kg), lower and middle-income groups are increasingly opting for fish. Currently, India is making significant strides in sustainable fishing. At a workshop in Kochi, experts discussed efforts to obtain a global fisheries certification by 2025. The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) currently certifies only 63 countries, and India aims to join this elite group with improved standards in fish exports and sustainability. — BMB

Govt mulls egg price hike for mid-day meals

The government is reviewing a possible increase in the price of eggs supplied as part of the mid-day meal program for school children, School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa announced. The final decision will be taken after obtaining approval from the Finance Department. Responding to a query from Congress MLA ML Anilkumar, the minister stated that the current fixed price per egg is ₹6. He noted that in many places, eggs are available at prices ranging from ₹4.50 to ₹5.50, though fluctuations may occur. Addressing concerns regarding the mid-day meal scheme, the minister assured that there is no shortage of cooking oil or pulses needed for the program, nor is there a financial crunch. Since the scheme is centrally sponsored, it must be implemented as per the guidelines set by the central government, he added. — BMB

Traffic violation scam: How fraudsters are stealing your data

Scammers posing as transport officials trick vehicle owners with fake violation alerts to install malware and access personal data; police warn against clicking on dubious links

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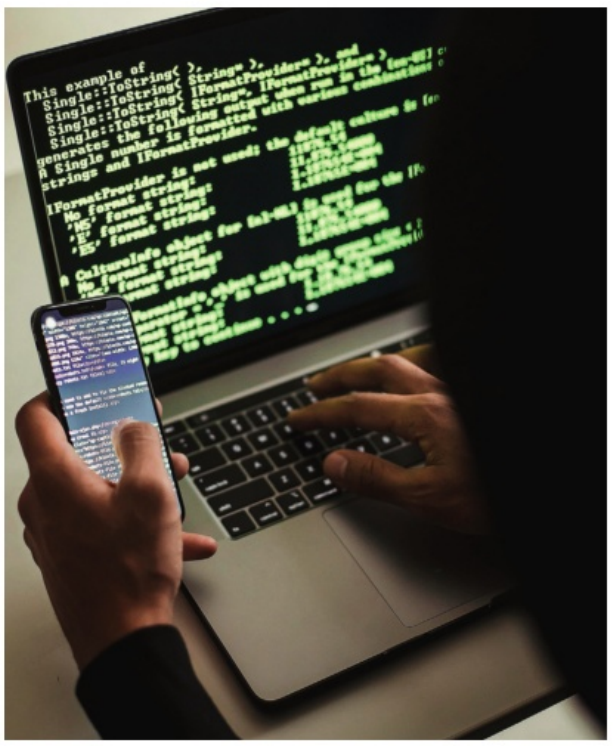
A new cyber fraud is making rounds where scammers, posing as transport department officials, send deceptive messages to vehicle owners under the guise of the official 'Vahan Parivahan' ID.

The fraudulent messages claim that a traffic violation has been recorded via CCTV and instruct recipients to click on a provided link to view details. However, traffic police have confirmed that these messages are fake and serve as a means to install malware on victims' phones, potentially granting cybercriminals access to sensitive data.



How scam works

The scam begins with an SMS or WhatsApp message alerting recipients about a supposed traffic violation linked to their vehicle. The message includes a link or an APK file, which, when downloaded, installs malware capable of extracting personal and financial information.

Officials are investigating how fraudsters have gained access to vehicle owners' contact numbers and accurate details about their vehicles. This breach has raised concerns over potential data leaks or misuse of official databases.

Authorities issue warning

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has confirmed the ongoing scam and reaffirmed that neither the traffic police nor the transport department contacts individuals regarding traffic violations or demands fine payments via phone calls or unsolicited messages.

Authorities have urged citizens to remain cautious and avoid interacting with such fraudulent messages. They strongly advise against clicking on suspicious links or downloading APK files from unknown sources. Instead, vehicle owners should verify any traffic violation notices directly on the official Bengaluru Traffic Police or Parivahan website.

Officials recommend reporting any suspicious messages to cybercrime authorities and exercising caution when receiving calls or texts demanding immediate fine payments.

Similar issue reported in November

This is not the first instance of fraudsters targeting vehicle owners with fake penalty messages. In November last year, cybercriminals posed as BTP officials and deceived people into paying non-existent fines using malicious QR codes and links.

Similarly, in February, another scam surfaced where motorists received notices for fines they had already cleared online.

With digital fraud on the rise, authorities stress the importance of increased awareness among citizens. Vehicle owners are urged to stay alert and report any suspicious communications to law enforcement to prevent falling victim to such cyber scams.

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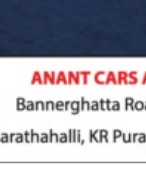
SUMMER VACATION-2025
(Eng & Kan Med) Admissions Started for
IV&V
Sainik/Navodaya/Kittur/RMS Coaching
Maths, English, Intelligence (IQ) & GK
VI to X
(Mathematics, Science & English Grammar)
Classes Start from : 02.04.2025

Basavaraj Koulagi
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Karnataka - 167
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Navodaya Schools - 102
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High-rise living, low-key fire safety: Who's responsible?

Citizens raise serious concerns over missing fire clearance, safety violations, and lack of regular fire drills for over five years, putting lives at risk

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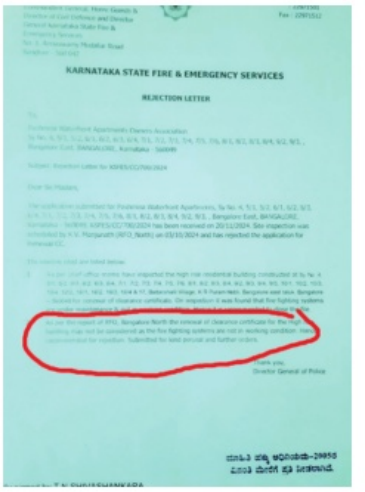
A fire clearance certificate is mandatory for high-rise buildings to ensure safety and compliance with fire regulations. It is the responsibility of the builder or the residents' welfare association of the respective apartment complex to obtain this certificate from the Fire and Emergency Services. Having a fire clearance certificate also facilitates the swift settlement of fire insurance claims in case of a mishap.

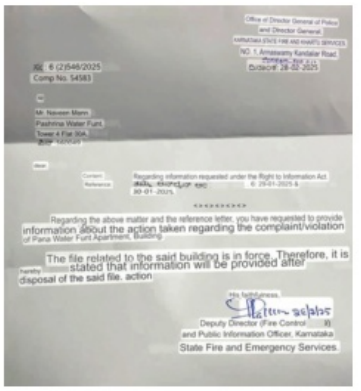
It is the responsibility of the Fire and Emergency Services to inspect high-rise buildings to verify whether or not such buildings are fire safety compliant.

According to the documents available with Bangalore Mirror, the Fire and Emergency Services have failed to issue a fire clearance certificate to 38-floor Pashmina Waterfront Apartment Complex where around 700 families are residing. Naveen Mann, a resident of the Pashmina Waterfront Apartment Complex has filed a complaint with the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services, as well as a police complaint as NCR against violation. The core of his complaint revolves around the alleged encroachment of areas designated for fire safety, coupled with the absence of a valid fire safety certificate for the building. It is alleged that the residents have not had a fire safety drill in over five years, leaving them unprepared for emergencies.

Naveen Mann, who filed a complaint with the police and Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services, emphasised that fire safety is not just about financial security through fire insurance but about protecting lives. "I feel betrayed knowing that the fire safety certificate renewal was rejected, and I had to learn about it through an RTI. The association never shared the status and instead asked me to file an RTI. They only acted after I revealed the renewal rejection, but to this day, no fire drills or basic safety measures have been implemented. Continuous construction is taking place on the front podium, which is meant for the assembly area. I hope authorities take strict action to resolve these issues honestly and on priority," Mann said, adding that ensuring a safe living environment for his family and neighbours is a basic human right.


KARNATAKA STATE FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
REJECTION LETTER

(Top right) Rejection letter from Fire and Emergency Services; (below right) Reply from Fire and Emergency Services Department


Office of Director General of Police and Director General
Comp No. 54583
Mr. Naveen Mann
Pashmina Water Funt
Regarding information requested under the Right to Information Act
The file related to the said building is in force. Therefore, it is stated that information will be provided after disposal of the said file. action
Deputy Director (Fire Control) and Public Information Officer, Karnataka
State Fire and Emergency Services

When contacted, Subir Sarbabidya, President of the Pashmina Waterfront Owners Association, stated that the Fire Safety Compliance Certificate for Pashmina Waterfront Phase-1 is currently under renewal. "The Pashmina Waterfront Owners Association is working closely with the Fire and Emergency Services Department of the Government of Karnataka. The department has conducted multiple audits on our premises and provided important recommendations, which we are actively addressing. Once the necessary work is completed as per their guidance, another audit will be conducted to finalise the renewal process. The association does not see any negligence on the part of the Fire and Emergency Services Department and has received full cooperation and guidance from them," Sarbabidya said.

> **"I revealed renewal rejection, but to this day, no fire drills or basic safety mesaures have been implemented** – Naveen Mann, complainant

City-specific clean air action plans in place

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

smog during winter due to additional factors like crop burning and weather conditions, Bengaluru's pollution remains consistently high, proving that traffic congestion and unchecked vehicular growth are year-round issues in the Silicon Valley of India. The report stated that Kanpur exhibits similar winter pollution trends, with 30% PM2.5 contribution from transport in winter, but a much lower 7% in summer, indicating that non-vehicular sources play a bigger role in its overall air quality fluctuations. Nashik (28% in winter), Amravati (25% in summer), and Ghaziabad (22% in summer) also report significant contributions from transport, but none approach Bengaluru's peak levels. Other cities like Mumbai (16% in summer), Pune (18% in winter), and Surat (23% in winter, 6% in summer) have comparatively lower transport emissions, possibly due to better public transport infrastructure or more favorable meteorological conditions.

An environmental expert explained the reasons behind this. "The implications of this trend are far-reaching. High PM2.5 levels contribute to severe health issues, including respiratory ailments, cardiovascular diseases, and reduced life expectancy. The fact that pollution remains high even during the monsoon suggests that rainfall is not sufficient to curb emissions, making long-term interventions crucial," he said.

He added that the situation called for urgent policy changes, including stricter emission norms, expansion of public transport networks, and increased adoption of electric vehicles. "Bengaluru's reliance on private transport and slow implementation of sustainable mobility solutions pose significant challenges, making it imperative for authorities to act swiftly." During the reply in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh, highlighted city-specific clean air action plans aimed at tackling key air pollution sources such as soil and road dust, vehicular emissions, domestic fuel use, municipal solid waste burning, construction material, and industrial pollution. These plans include short-term priority actions as well as long-term strategies, with clear responsibilities assigned to relevant agencies.

"To curb vehicular emissions, several measures have been incorporated into the annual action plan under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). These include increasing the number of Pollution Under Control (PUC) centres, ensuring more registered vehicles have PUC certificates, and linking PUC centres to a remote server to eliminate manual intervention. Other initiatives include a vehicle labelling program, restricting heavy vehicle entry into cities during peak hours, and checking truck overloading," he said. According to him, the plan also stresses cleaner fuel use, improving fuel quality, and developing multi-layer parking to manage congestion. "Enhancing public transport is a key focus, with measures like introducing electric and CNG buses along with supporting infrastructure such as charging stations and CNG supply points. Promoting battery-operated vehicles like e-rickshaws and e-carts, expanding EV charging infrastructure, and phasing out old vehicles through a scrappage policy are also part of the action plan," the Union Minister added.

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Illegal parking
Sadashivanagar

A Restaurant near Sadashivanagar Police Station has encroached on roads and footpaths for parking, leading to daily congestion. Two-wheelers obstruct footpaths, while cars occupy one side, slowing traffic. Authorities must take action.

Road blocked
HSR Layout

On 13th Main, 21st Cross, 7th Sector, a builder has blocked the roadside, causing garbage buildup, pests, and accident risks at a blind turn. Despite complaints, BBMP remains inactive. Urgent action needed.

Footpath neglected
Rajarajeshwari Nagar

The footpath near National Hill View Public School, Ideal Homes Township, RR Nagar, has been neglected for over six months. While BBMP sweeps the road, it dumps garbage onto the footpath, leaving it uncleared despite repeated complaints.

Take 'police sticker' off your personal vehicles, cops told

As concerns were raised on undue privileges to some police officers, Home Minister clarifies misuse of official labels illegal, will invite action

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Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara has stated that there is no provision allowing police personnel to affix "Police" labels on their private vehicles, and any such misuse will result in legal action. This declaration came in response to a question raised by MLA CN Balakrishna during the assembly session on Tuesday, where concerns were raised over police officers misusing these stickers to gain undue privileges.

In the assembly session, the Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara addressed concerns regarding police personnel displaying "Police" labels on their private vehicles. He clarified that such practices are not legally permitted and constitute a violation of the law. He reaffirmed that there is no provision allowing police officers to affix these stickers on their private vehicles and that doing so misrepresents official authority.

Many police officials own private vehicles in addition to their official bikes and cars. Often, they affix "Police" stickers on these personal vehicles, effectively misusing the police logo and the associated privileges. This widespread misuse not only grants undue advantages but also opens doors for corrupt practices. In several instances, police personnel have been found hiring private vehicles for both official and unofficial duties, and in an attempt to enjoy certain privileges, they affix these stickers. This enables them to evade traffic regulations, gain preferential access to restricted areas, and even intimidate civilians.

The Karnataka Home Department has acknowledged instances of police personnel misusing 'Police' labels on their private vehicles. Dr Parameshwara emphasised that, according to a government circular issued in 2022, legal action will be initiated against those found violating this directive. The department is keen on cracking down on such practices to maintain the integrity of law enforcement.

In Tamil Nadu, officials noted use of 'G' sticker to evade traffic rules

> **Many affix 'Police' stickers on personal vehicles, misusing official privileges and enabling corrupt practices**

Growing concern across states

The misuse of official stickers and labels on private vehicles has been a growing concern across various states. In Tamil Nadu, for instance, authorities have observed that individuals, including government employees, often affix 'G' stickers, denoting government vehicles, on their private cars to evade traffic regulations and avoid scrutiny. This misuse not only undermines the authenticity of legitimate government vehicles but also poses security risks, as it can facilitate criminal activities under the guise of officialdom.

The Tamil Nadu police have also issued warnings against the unauthorised use of 'Police' stickers on private vehicles, emphasising that such practices can lead to legal consequences. Similar instances have been reported in Karnataka, prompting the Home Department to take strict measures to curb such violations.

The misuse of official designations on private vehicles undermines public trust and poses security risks. Strict enforcement of regulations prohibiting such practices is essential to maintain the integrity of law enforcement. Authorities have urged citizens to report instances of such misuse, ensuring that law enforcement officials adhere to the regulations.

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745 lost licences for drunk driving

The Bengaluru Traffic Police has intensified its crackdown on traffic violators, leading to a significant number of driving licence (DL) suspensions.

According to data from Bengaluru Traffic Police, between January 1, 2024, and February 28, 2025, a total of 815 licences were suspended for offences including, drunk driving – 745 suspensions, wheeling – 6 suspensions, accidents – 54 suspensions, and hit-and-run – 10 suspensions.

'Nationwide resignation of kidneys'

Manipal Hospitals' World Kidney Day 2025 campaign, "Kidneys across the country are resigning," raises awareness about kidney diseases and the need for preventive care. Dr H Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman of Manipal Hospitals, emphasised the importance of kidney health, recommending hydration, a balanced diet, regular check-ups, and avoiding harmful habits like alcohol, and painkillers. "Take care of your kidneys, and they will take care of you," he advised.

HC quashes cattle transport case

The Karnataka High Court has nullified proceedings against two individuals accused of unlawful cattle transportation for slaughter, where charges were based on a co-accused's confessional statement.

Justice Hemant Chandangoudar granted the petition by Ismail Jabiulla and another, dismissing charges under Sections 4, 6, 7, 8, and 12(2) of the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Ordinance, 2020, alongside provisions from the Transportation of Animals Act, Sections 181(3) and 177 of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and Section 149 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

The court stated, "The allegations against accused Nos 3 and 4, even if taken at face value, do not fulfil the essential elements required to constitute the offences alleged against them." The prosecution claimed that on September 3, 2022, following credible information, the complainant conducted a raid with staff. They discovered cattle tied in a shed belonging to accused No 1.

Three cattle were found dead, whilst three others were discovered in a lorry owned by accused No 2. Allegedly, accused No 3 was present in the shed during the raid, with accused No 4 in the parked lorry outside. The accused allegedly failed to provide adequate sustenance and attempted transportation without proper permits.

The bench found insufficient evidence to prove accused Nos 3 and 4 intended unauthorised cattle transport.

The court noted, "The only evidence against them is the confession statement of co-accused Nos 2 and 5, who have stated that accused Nos 3 and 4 participated in the transportation of cattle for slaughter."

The court stated, "It is a well-settled principle that any confession made by an accused while in police custody is inadmissible under Section 25 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 unless corroborated by independent material evidence. An accused cannot be subjected to trial based on a confession statement."—BMB

Bail denied in assault, conversion case

The Karnataka High Court dismissed a bail application from a man charged with sexually assaulting a married woman, unlawfully detaining her and allegedly compelling her to embrace Islam. Justice S Rachaiah deemed the accused's conduct inexcusable and warranting severe consequences.

"On going through the averments of the charge sheet, it appears that the appellant herein had confined the victim by keeping a woman to watch her movements and forcing her to convert to Islam. The said act of the appellant is unpardonable," the Court said. The prosecution stated that the complainant, who operated a grocery shop with her mother-in-law, reported that the accused Rafiq, a regular customer, engaged in conversations with her.

He allegedly offered employment assistance through his political connections, established an intimate relationship, and engaged in sexual relations. Upon her husband's discovery, disputes ensued, leading her to relocate to her parents' residence. Subsequently, the accused allegedly used blackmail to continue the relationship. She resided at Sharada Swadhar Kendra in Belagavi for four months before relocating to Basava Colony, where the accused allegedly committed rape. The accused arranged surveillance through a woman and pressured her to adopt Islam and wed him. On April 15, 2024, her husband located her, leading to her police complaint. Following enquiries, authorities filed charges.

> **Charge sheet suggests that accused confined the victim and monitored her**

The Additional District and Sessions Judge at Belagavi rejected the initial bail application, leading to this High Court appeal. Defence counsel argued that post-charge sheet filing and extended custody were unnecessary. The defence further noted that the woman's voluntary four to five-month stay with the accused without complaints suggested consensual relations.

The State prosecutor firmly opposed bail consideration. The prosecution emphasised the accused's pressure on the woman to convert to Islam for marriage. —BMB

43% of sanctioned posts in forest dep are unfilled

Staff crunch persists for years; over 3,900 forest guard and watcher posts remain vacant, raising concerns about poaching, encroachment, and forest fires

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Experts warn of increased poaching and encroachment, urging urgent recruitment to protect the state's 40,000 sq km forest cover

The Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) continues to function at half its strength. According to official data, nearly 43% of the sanctioned posts in the department remain unfilled. While the KFD has 14,803 sanctioned positions, as many as 6,303 remain vacant.

This situation has persisted for years. In the last financial year (2023-24), 7,119 out of 14,843 posts were unoccupied. During 2022-23, the department had 14,845 sanctioned positions, with 6,410 lying vacant, marking 43% of the workforce missing. Similarly, in 2021-22, the department had a total staff strength of 14,988, out of which 8,893 positions were filled, while 6,095 remained vacant, accounting for 41% of unoccupied posts.

The vacancies are particularly concerning in the case of forest guards and watchers. Of the 7,386 sanctioned posts for these frontline positions, 3,935 (53%) remain vacant. Additionally, there are significant vacancies for Assistant Conservators of Forests and Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers.

BM had earlier reported that increases in the number of unoccupied posts over the last few years were due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as told by a KFD official.

Officials have previously attributed the increasing number of unfilled positions to the COVID-19 pandemic. A KFD official had stated that recruitment processes, including physical tests for field staff, were disrupted due to pandemic-related restrictions. Economic constraints imposed during the pandemic further hampered the hiring process.

However, wildlife conservationists warn that the persistent staff shortage is bound to impact conservation efforts. With over 50% of forest guard and watcher positions unfilled, illegal activities such as wildlife poaching and timber smuggling are expected to rise.

Official had said recruitment processes, including physical tests for field staff, were disrupted due to covid-related restrictions and economic constraints hampered hiring

Experts emphasise that managing over 40,000 sq km of forest land in Karnataka requires a workforce operating at a minimum of 75% to 80% of its sanctioned strength.

"Forest areas face numerous challenges. Apart from poaching and smuggling, Karnataka's forests are plagued by encroachments, which continue to expand each year. Additionally, forest fires often deliberately set pose a major threat. It is neither feasible nor practical to address these challenges with such a depleted workforce. The government must prioritize this issue and fill as many vacancies as possible," said a wildlife conservationist.

Meanwhile, the number of daily wage employees working under the Karnataka Daily Wage Employees Welfare Rules, 2013, stands at 1,835.

Home buyers want RERA Karnataka to implement project closure policy

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Buyers complain many builders have failed to complete projects on time and RERA has not taken steps to ensure they submit reports

The members of the Karnataka Home Buyers Forum have been running from pillar to post, urging the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) Karnataka to issue guidelines on the completion of housing projects, similar to those implemented by RERA in neighbouring states. They complain that many builders have failed to complete housing projects on time, and RERA Karnataka has not taken any steps to ensure that builders submit reports on project completion.

Bangalore Mirror had earlier reported on this issue in its September 4, 2024, article titled Home buyers want closure, stricter project completion. The report highlighted how home buyers brought their concerns to the attention of RERA Karnataka's newly appointed chairman, Rakesh Singh. They informed him that promoters of housing projects were submitting affidavits claiming they would hand over the undivided share of the title to registered associations. However, in reality, many builders were failing to fulfil this commitment.

In response to an RTI application on March 3, 2025, RERA Karnataka stated that a project closure policy is currently under consideration. This reply has sparked outrage among home buyers, who argue that the lack of a clear policy has led to numerous incomplete projects and ongoing hardships for residents.

Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, Sanchalak of the Karnataka Home Buyers Forum, criticized RERA Karnataka officials for their failure to implement the RERA Act effectively. "They require promoters to register their projects under RERA but do not ensure that the projects are completed. There is no policy on project closure. Even smaller states like Odisha have introduced a project closure policy to ensure that promoters complete registered projects. We submitted a letter to RERA authorities urging them to implement a similar policy, but no action has been taken. If RERA Odisha can do it, why can't RERA Karnataka?" he questioned.

Vani Kishore, a home buyer, emphasised the need for strict enforcement. "RERA must ensure that every project in Karnataka is completed on time. It should also register the association and transfer common areas to the registered association of allottees, as mandated under Section 17 of the RERA Act. A project closure policy similar to Odisha's is necessary to enforce these requirements," she said.

Abdul Aleem, President of the Change makers of Kanakapura Road Association, expressed concern over the prolonged delay in introducing a project completion report policy. "If RERA remains complacent, home buyers will have no choice but to seek legal recourse. What is the point of RERA if it cannot ensure basic project completion formalities like registering associations and transferring land from builders to the residents' association?" he asked.

IN BRIEF

Foreign tourists cancel Hampi trips over safety

The recent gang rape and assault of a foreign woman and a homestay owner in Sanapur, Koppal district, has sparked fears of a major setback to tourism in the region. A noticeable drop in tourist footfall has been observed in Hampi and nearby destinations. Several tourists have cancelled their hotel and homestay bookings. Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, attracts hundreds of thousands of domestic and international tourists annually, especially during summer. However, many travellers are now reconsidering their plans. "A group of European tourists had planned a trip to Hampi next month, as they do every year. But after this shocking incident, they are having second thoughts," said a local tour guide.

On Monday, the usually bustling Hampi market and its iconic stone mantapas looked unusually deserted. Virupaksha V State General Secretary of the Tourist Guides Association, said that the Sanapur incident is likely to further affect the season's turnout. — BMB

Electric auto permits to be regulated soon

The state government will introduce an amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act in the upcoming legislative session, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said. During the current session, BJP MLA Vedavyas Kamath raised concerns about issues caused by electric autos operating without permits. In response, minister Reddy explained that the central government allows electric autos to operate as public transport without requiring a permit, a policy the state has also followed. However, he acknowledged that this has led to conflicts between electric autos and permit-holding auto drivers. To address the issue, the government plans to mandate permits for electric autos, which will require an amendment to the existing law. The revised legislation will be presented in the next session, he confirmed. — BMB

Weekly moral education classes to help teens

The government is considering introducing moral education for school children to help guide adolescents who are straying off track, said School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa. During a special discussion on issues affecting teenagers—such as substance abuse, early sexual activity, teenage pregnancies, depression, stress, cyber addiction, and disobedience MLC Bharati Shetty emphasised the need for moral education in schools. Minister Bangarappa said discussions are underway to introduce moral education classes once a week. — BMB

Son's case against father: 'Matter for full-blown trial'

IN FOCUS: HIGH COURT

Man petitioned HC saying he didn't push wife from 16th floor

The High Court has declined to nullify murder proceedings initiated by a son against his father following his mother's death after a fall from their 16th-floor apartment.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, dismissing Devendra Bhatia's petition, stated, "When the evidence of both the children as quoted hereinabove would pin the petitioner down albeit, prima facie, it is ununderstandable as to how this Court would exercise its jurisdiction under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C. on an offence under Section 302 of the IPC against the accused and obliterate the trial. If the children have complained against the petitioner narrating vivid details, it becomes a matter for a full-blown trial, where the petitioner has to come out clean."

The woman was found dead after falling from her 16th floor apartment on August 26, 2018. After the funeral rituals, 14 days after the incident, the son filed a police complaint against his father. Police investigation led to charges under Section 302 (Murder) and 498-A (Cruelty) of Indian Penal Code. After the trial court rejected his discharge application, the petitioner sought its quashing.

The petitioner contested that the Police Commissioner lacks authority to transfer Investigating Officers between jurisdictions, arguing this power rests solely with the Court concerned or the High Court.

The petitioner claimed the allegations were implausible, stating a man wouldn't push his wife. He maintained it was an accidental fall, whilst noting strained relations with his son. Additionally, statements under Section 164 from both children implicated the petitioner in both offences.

Findings

Upon reviewing the complaint and children's statements under Section 164 CrPC, the bench rejected the petitioner's improbability claim. The court noted, "The same yardstick applies also to the children, so why would they complain against the father? The vivid narration of the daughter in the statement recorded under Section 164 of the Cr.P.C. and the son, of a more vivid description would clearly mean that the petitioner is to be tried for both the offences." The court added, "The submission that there is no allegation of demand of dowry is of no avail, as it is trite law that in the absence of demand of dowry also, cruelty can form the fulcrum of the allegation..." —**Rachana Ramesh**

GOLDDIGGERS

Not an exhibition enthusiast!

A woman has been arrested for stealing jewelry while posing as a customer at jewellery fairs. The police have recovered 78 grams of gold ornaments and a 12-gram diamond bracelet, collectively valued at Rs 8 lakh.

The theft was reported by a jeweller from Palace Road, Guttahalli, who participated in an exhibition at a hotel on Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, from January 17 to 19. According to the complaint filed at Subramanyanagar Police Station, an unknown woman visited the stall on January 18 and stole a diamond bracelet (11.95 grams) and a gold bangle (59.1 grams) worth Rs 4.75 lakh.

Following a detailed investigation, police tracked the suspect to another jewelry exhibition and detained her on March 2.

Parked at a relative's

A sneaky thief who thought he had pulled off the perfect crime found his luck running out when Varthur police closed in on him, unraveling a curious chain of events.

A resident of 1st Cross, behind Government College, returned home from work to find his house broken into and 106 grams of gold missing, on January 30. He went to the Varthur Police Station.

Using informant networks and surveillance footage, police zeroed in on a suspect loitering near Varthur Lake on March 2. Upon interrogation, the suspect admitted to the burglary but revealed that he had passed on the stolen gold to a relative in Cotton Town. Summoned to the police station, the unsuspecting relative turned over the stolen gold on March 6, valued at Rs 8 lakh.

Break-in & scoot

Three persons involved in a house break-in and theft of gold and silver worth Rs 5 lakh were arrested by Subramanyanagar Police. The stolen valuables, including 35 grams of gold jewelry and 1.76 kg of silver articles, were recovered from the accused.

The complaint was filed on February 20, by a resident of Rajajinagar 2nd Phase, A Block. The house owner had locked the house and left for work in the morning. At around 4 pm, the house help arrived and found the front door broken. The complainant rushed home, only to discover that the cupboard had been ransacked and valuables were missing. **BMB**

Snatching spree

The notorious 'Irani Gang' has struck again. However, the Baiyappanahalli police cracked a series of chain-snatching cases with the arrest of its two key members, recovering 30 grams of gold jewelry and a stolen two-wheeler, collectively valued at Rs 3 lakh. The investigation began after two separate incidents shook residents of Baiyappanahalli. On December 20, an elderly man walking home in Sadananda Nagar fell victim to two bike-borne thieves who swiftly snatched his 12-gram gold chain before vanishing into the night. A similar theft took place on January 3, near a Ganesha temple in Krishnayana Palya, where another pedestrian lost an 18-gram gold chain.

Overcharged: SMVT Rly Stn parking set-up dismantled

BANGALORE IMPACT MIRROR

In response to allegations of overcharging and fraudulent practices at Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT) Railway Station, and an FIR filed by advocate Timothy Charles against parking attendants for extortion and criminal intimidation, the Divisional Office, Commercial Branch, Bengaluru, has acknowledged the issue and imposed a penalty on the licencee. A detailed inquiry is underway, after which officials have assured action.

The Railway Board has also directed the Central Railway Protection Force (RPF) to conduct a thorough investigation. A penalty has been initiated. Additionally, the check post has been temporarily seized, and unauthorised money collection has been prohibited.

Bangalore Mirror
Parking scam at SMVT: ₹500 for 37 minutes!
BM's Feb 28 report

Incident:
On February 20, Charles visited SMVT to receive his parents when a parking attendant allegedly demanded Rs 100 instead of the official rate. Upon questioning and requesting a receipt, he was given a manipulated one. A heated argument followed, during which he was allegedly assaulted. The attendant even claimed to have bribed railway officials. Charles gathered video evidence and lodged an FIR, but a follow-up visit revealed that overcharging continued, with attendants demanding Rs 500 for a 37-minute parking duration. Previous complaints on social media have highlighted similar issues, with parking attendants at SMVT often charging Rs 50–Rs100 instead of the official Rs 20 for two hours. Similar allegations have emerged at Yeshwantpur Railway Station. **BMB**

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Villagers stop waste trucks from entering, to up stir

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Development Commissioner Shalini Rajaneesh. The letter dated March 10 says the mixed waste from the city is being disposed of unscientifically by BSWML, leading to health issues.

The letter underlines that the mixed waste being dumped in the landfill contains animal waste, medical waste, and hazardous material from industries, without treatment. It also alleges that a woman's body was found with the waste recently.

Locals say that while they have informed BSWML about the issues on multiple occasions, there has been no response.

Fish deaths

The Kannuru Gram Panchayat office alleges that all surrounding lakes - Mittaganahalli Lake, Kannuru Lake, Chikkagubbi Lake, Doddagubbi Lake, and Rampura Lake - have been polluted, and almost all the fish in these lakes died nearly a month ago.

"Villagers have also lost cattle due to contaminated water over the last one to two months. Due to the unscientific dumping of waste, leading to large amounts of leachate, lakes in the area and the groundwater table have been polluted. This has led to serious health impacts. Foul smell from the dumpyard is causing a lot of inconvenience to the elderly, children, and those that are unwell. Many villagers are suffering from respiratory and skin-related diseases. The Grama Panchayat office has been receiving multiple complaints," said the letter sent to Rajaneesh, demanding action against officials responsible be taken on the grounds of dereliction of duty.

However, BSWML officials say they have not received any such information from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).

"KSPCB has been regularly monitoring the lakes in the area. If there was anything out of the ordinary, the Board would have served BSWML a notice. However, we have not received any such intimation from KSPCB. We are spending a large amount to develop the landfill and ensure that the environment is not polluted," said a senior official.

Waste woes in store?

As many as 360 garbage trucks were stopped from unloading waste at the dumpyard on Tuesday. Villagers blocked the entry point using boulders and heaps of soil. While BSWML officials rushed to the spot to speak with villagers, garbage collection and disposal might get affected on Wednesday if the standoff continues.

"Locals have not allowed 360 garbage trucks to pass and unload the waste. However, we are speaking with the villagers and trying to understand their concerns. We are hoping the issue will get resolved sooner than later," said M Lokesh, chief engineer, BSWML.

The landfill receives more than 2,000 tonnes of mixed waste that Bengaluru generates. Villagers have warned of stiff opposition if the issue is not resolved.

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I Sheetal Sridhar Suvarna D/O, Sridhar Suvarna R/o Pyramid Greenwoods Apt 419a 5th Cross, Near Ayappa Temple Bytarayanapura , Sahakarnagar Bangalore 560092 have changed my name to Sheetal Suvarna

I, Ujwala R/o Flat.12-1325, 7th main, WOC road, Mahalakshmipuram layout, Bengaluru 560086 have changed my name to Ujwala Suresh Patil Affidavit Dt.11/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Taylur mohamed Badrulla shareef R/o No.89, 4th main, 8th cross Jhbcs layout, JP Nagar, B'luru 560078 have changed my name to Badrulla Taylur Mohamed Affidavit Dt.11/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Madu Kumar B S S/O, Shankare Gowda R/o 151, Balepura Hosadurga Post Kanakapura Ramanagar 562119 have changed my name to Madhu Kumar B S.

I Madhushree D/o Manjegowda K R/o No.119, 9th Cross, Nisarga HMT Lyt, Gidadakonenahalli, B'luru 560091 have changed my name to Madhushree Lakshmidevarahalli Manjegowda Affidavit Dt.11/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Sobharani.V w/o Prashanth B P R/o No.1565/A, 18th main, 9th cross, Muneshwara Block, Bengaluru 560026 have changed my name to Shobha Affidavit Dt.11/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Balqis Banu R/o No.260, 11th main, 34th cross, Yarabnagar, Bsk 2nd stage, Bengaluru 560070 have changed my name to Balkhis Banu Affidavit Dt.11/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Thomas Manakuzhiyil Thomas S/O, Thomas R/o N0-238/3, claretian Provincial House,5th Cross, Sharadamba Nagar,jalahalli, Bengaluru-560013 have changed my name to Thomas Manakuzhiyil.

I Bhageratha Rao S/O, R Narayana Rao R/o No 234, 2nd Cross, 8th Main Road, Railway Layout, Bhavaninagar 2nd Phase, Bengaluru - 560056 have changed my name to N Bhagiratha Rao.

I, Shobana D/O Sethu W/O Ragunath R/O B23, Chestnut, Sherwood, Basavanagar Main Road, Bengaluru - 560037 have changed my name to Mrs. Shobana Ragunath for all future purposes

I Naveen Hiremath Guruswamy Hiremath R/o. No-595,Sri Saudha,Beml 3rd stage,Rajarajeshwari Nagar,Bengaluru 560098 have changed my name to Naveen Hiremath for all purposes.

I, Vijaykumar Dombarahalli Hanumanthaiah r/o Dombarahalli Near Anjaneya Temple, Lakshmipura PO, Bangalore Rural 562123 have changed my name to Vijaya Kumar Dombarahalli Hanumanthaiah.

I, Porval Manishaben Jayantibhai W/o Praveen Kumar Dak R/o #41, 4th Cross, J C Nagar, Pine Line Road, B'luru-560086 have changed my name to Manisha P Dak

I, Mohamad Munir Farhan Suhail alias M M Farhan Suhail. S/O M Munir Ahmed. Address: 1204, 2nd Main, Ambedkar Layout, Kavalbyrasandra, RT Nagar Post, Bengaluru 560032 have changed my name to Farhan Suhail for all future purposes

I Rasheed Shaik S/O, Khader Basha Shaik R/o No 90 2nd Floor Krishnappa Garden, C V Raman Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 5600930 have changed my name to Rasheed Shaik Muhammad.

I, Udayakumar C R/o No.9/201, 2nd floor, Temple sankalp, 5th cross, Halagevaderahalli, RR Nagar, Bengaluru 560098 have changed my name to Uday Kumar Chennadka Affidavit Dt.11/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Vijaykumar Kodabali R/o No.4, G-flr, front house, 1st main, 6th ph, Mahaganapathi nagar, woc Rd, B'luru 560010 have changed my name to Vijaykumar Mahabaleshwar Kodabali Affidavit Dt.11/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Akshata Halagatti R/o No.4, G-flr, front house, 1st main, 6th ph, Mahaganapathi nagar, woc Rd, B'luru 560010 have changed my name to Akshata Vijaykumar Kodabali Affidavit Dt.11/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Mishel Shiny S W/o Paul Raj A R/o No 23 3rd Cross, 7th Main Ak Colony,Domlur Layout Domlur Bengaluru-560071 have changed my name to Mishel Shiny for all purposes.

I Silvia w/o Nur Alam Shaikh R/o No- 51/1, Promenade Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005 have changed my name to Safiya Khatun for all purposes.

HEALTH TIP: As rose tea has antioxidants and anti-inflammatory properties, it helps in boosting weight loss

Rose tea is herbal and is known to improve digestion system

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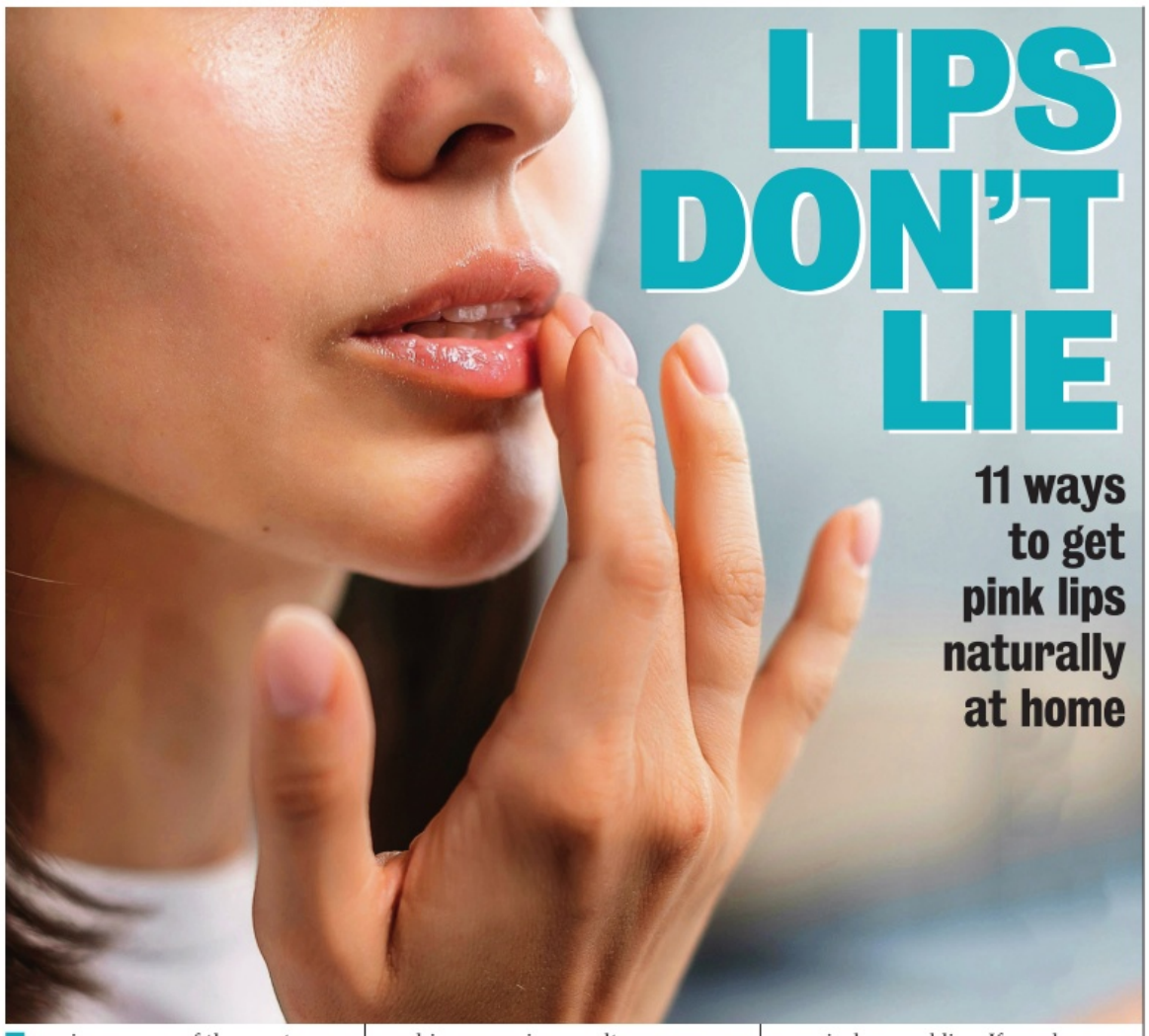

LIPS DON'T LIE

11 ways to get pink lips naturally at home

Lips are one of the most important features of the face, and it's imperative to take care of them. Besides, the skin around the lips is more sensitive than most parts of the body. Here, we list a few home remedies to care for your lips and achieve a natural pout.

1 Lemon & honey

A mix of honey and lemon is a perfect natural remedy for lightening dark lips naturally. Lemon acts as a natural bleaching agent, reducing pigmentation, while honey keeps your lips soft and moisturized. If you're wondering how to get pink lips overnight, apply a small amount of this mixture to your lips, leave it for 10-15 minutes, and rinse off with lukewarm water. Use this remedy daily for the best results.

A 2002 study suggests citrus fruit peel may act as a melanin inhibitor. Every night just before going to sleep, cut a lemon and gently rub the juicy part over your lips. The next morning, rinse your lips with cool water. Repeat this routine every night until you see results. It may take 30 days.

2 Rose petals and milk

Rose petals naturally enhance lip color and softness, making them an excellent remedy for those wondering how can I get pink lips naturally. Soak a few petals in milk for a few hours, then crush them into a paste and apply to your lips. Leave it on for about 10 minutes before washing off. If you're looking for how to make your lips pink naturally permanently, adding this remedy into your daily routine can help achieve amazing results.

According to studies, consistent application, along with staying hydrated and avoiding excessive lip licking, will help maintain soft, rosy lips naturally.

3 Beetroot juice

Beetroot is rich in natural red pigments that can give your lips a beautiful pink hue. If you're wondering how to make lips pink, simply apply fresh beetroot juice to your lips and let it sit for 15-20 minutes before rinsing. For added hydration, mix beetroot juice with coconut oil. Use it a few times a week for the best results.

Studies have shown that for a gentle exfoliation, blend beetroot juice with a bit of sugar and massage it onto your lips to slough off dead skin. You can also mix it with honey for deep hydration and a natural glow.

4 Coconut oil

Coconut oil is one of the best natural moisturizers for lips. It prevents dryness and helps repair chapped lips. If you're wondering how to get pink lips naturally, applying a drop of coconut oil to your lips before bedtime and letting it work overnight can help. With regular use, your lips will stay soft, plump, and naturally pink.

Studies reveal that coconut oil is packed with essential fatty acids and antioxidants that deeply nourish and hydrate the delicate skin of the lips.

5 Aloe vera gel

Aloe vera has soothing and healing properties that help repair damaged lips. If you keep wondering how to get pink lips naturally, applying a thin layer of fresh aloe vera gel to your lips can be an effective solution. Leave it on for 10-15 minutes before rinsing. This remedy reduces pigmentation and adds natural hydration, making your lips look healthier over time.

An older study suggests a compound in aloe vera inhibits melanin production. Once each day, apply a thin layer of fresh aloe vera gel onto your lips. Once it's dried, rinse it off with warm water.

6 Sugar and honey scrub

Exfoliation is key to removing dead skin cells and revealing fresh, pink lips underneath. Try this simple remedy. Mix one teaspoon of sugar with a few drops of honey to create a gentle scrub. Massage it on your lips in circular motions for a couple of minutes, then rinse off.

A study suggests honey is a great choice for a lip mask and for those looking for how to get pink lips overnight, regular exfoliation can help enhance the natural colour and softness of your lips. Use this scrub 2-3 times a week for naturally soft and pink lips.

7 Pomegranate seeds and milk

Pomegranate seeds contain natural pigments that help brighten lips. When you sit and think on how to get pink lips naturally, crush a few seeds, mix them with milk, and apply the paste to your lips. Let it sit for 10 minutes before rinsing off. This remedy not only enhances lip colour but also keeps them soft and nourished.

A 2005 study found that pomegranate extract may lighten skin hyperpigmentation. It's effective when you gently massage the paste into your lips for about three minutes, then rinse your lips with cool water. Repeat daily.

8 Cucumber slices

Cucumber has natural skin-lightening properties that can help reduce lip pigmentation. If you're wondering how to make lips pink, In a blender, juice half a cucumber. Cool the juice in the refrigerator. Once the juice is cool, dip a cotton ball into it and use the cotton ball to gently apply the juice onto your lips. Leave the cucumber juice on your lips for about 30 minutes, then rinse off with cool water.

According to a study, for those looking for how to get pink lips overnight, consistent use of cucumber along with proper lip care can show visible results faster.

9 Turmeric and milk

Turmeric is known for its brightening properties, making it a great remedy for dark lips. If you're wondering, "how can I get pink lips naturally," try mixing a pinch of turmeric with a few drops of milk to form a paste, then apply it to your lips. Leave it on for about 5 minutes before rinsing.

According to a 2010 study, turmeric may act as a melanin inhibitor. Regular use can help restore your lips' natural pink colour.

10 Strawberry and honey

Strawberries are rich in antioxidants and vitamin C, which help brighten lips and improve their natural colour. If the question arises in your head on how to make lips pink, try this simple remedy. Mash a ripe strawberry and mix it with a few drops of honey to create a nourishing lip mask. Apply it to your lips, leave it on for 10-15 minutes, then rinse off.

Research indicates this natural remedy helps exfoliate dead skin cells while deeply moisturising your lips. The combination of strawberry and honey also enhances lip softness, making them look healthier and more vibrant.

11 Carrot Juice

Carrots contain a high amount of beta-carotene, which naturally boosts lip colour. If you're looking for ways on how to make lips pink naturally, apply fresh carrot juice to your lips and let it sit for about 15 minutes before rinsing. This simple method helps fade dark pigmentation over time and is an effective approach to making your lips pink naturally and permanently.

— Unnati Sheth, Femina

All you need to know about...

Childbood abuse

Causes poor health later
Children who experience physical and sexual abuse are twice as likely to suffer from physical and mental health conditions, including angina, arthritis, asthma, COPD, heart attack, depression, and disability in adulthood, according to a study.

Risk increases
The study, published in the journal Child Maltreatment, found that children with sexual abuse were 55 per cent to 90 per cent more likely to experience these health outcomes compared to their peers who had not experienced any abuse. Facing only physical abuse also had significantly elevated odds of these health outcomes from 20 per cent to 50 per cent.

Better outcomes
The presence of a protective adult in the home was associated with better outcomes in the wake of physical and sexual abuse, providing promising insights for intervention efforts, said the researchers from the University of Toronto, in Canada.
"People don't typically think about the impact early adversities can have on health outcomes later in life," said Shannon Halls, a Research Coordinator at the varsity's Institute for Life Course and Aging.
"Our research underscores the harmful associations between early adversities, such as sexual and/or physical abuse, and a wide range of health issues in adulthood," Halls added.
Notably, children without a protective adult in their home, irrespective of childhood abuse status, were 20 per cent to 40 per cent more likely to experience adverse physical health outcomes and twice as likely to suffer from depression in adulthood.
The study is based on an analysis of data from over 80,000 adult US respondents between 2021 and 2022.

Positive relationships
The findings show "the importance of positive relationships between children and the adults in their lives" said Halls.

—IANS

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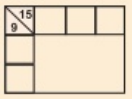
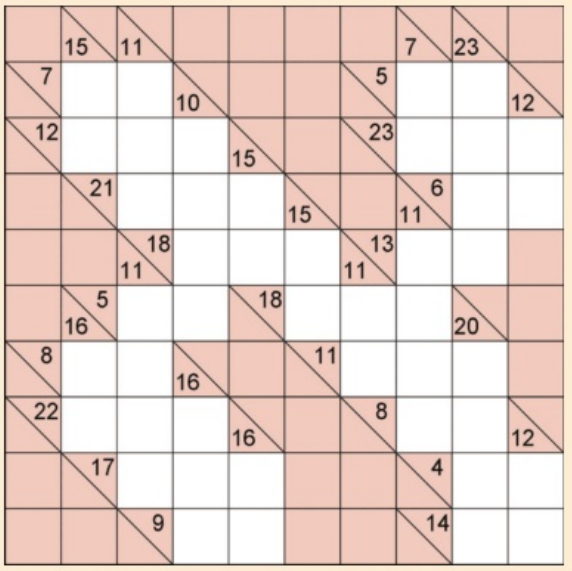
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

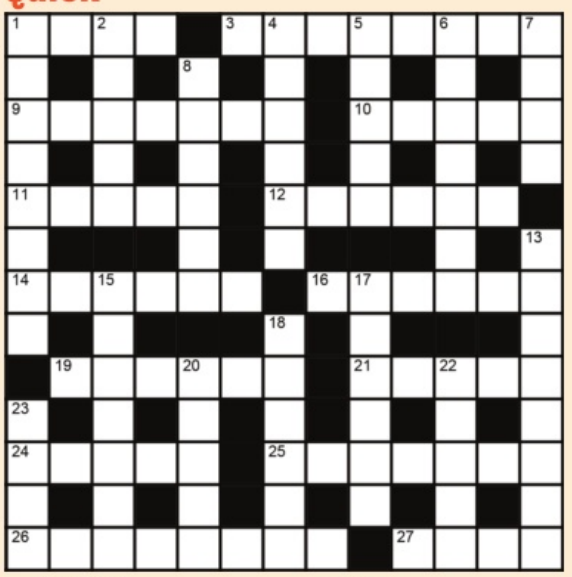


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Foolhardy (4)
3 Tipu Sultan's father (5,3)
9 Pre Euro Greek money (7)
10 Make a bid? (5)
11 Extraterrestrial (5)
12 Important city in Pakistan (6)
14 Utterly defeat (6)
16 Played quickly (music) (6)
19 Responsible (6)
21 Feeble-minded person (5)
24 Regretting (5)
25 Firstmost (7)
26 Ambitious sort (2-6)
27 Bible book abbr. (4)

DOWN

1 Rewrites in a different way (8)
2 Guru-"I'm was" anagram? (5)
4 Annually (6)
5 Significant point of time (5)
6 Asserts positively (7)
7 Concerning, in legal terms (2,2)
8 Wails or bemoans (6)
13 First rate, colloquially speaking? (3-5)
15 Attacking, striking or invading (7)
17 Stay back, survive or linger (6)
18 Citizenry (6)
20 Sired (5)
22 Shoals (5)
23 Fussy one (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS P

TALTFA IJMC AELMLPO JMN CZAO IKFF TJO JMO TWKEA CL UAC KC.

Linemaro

You, me, here .... this couldn't be any better if I programmed the holodeck myself!

Mindchow

Long engagements give people the opportunity of finding out each other's charcter before marriage, which is never advisable

Joke of the day

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocaine during a root canal? His goal: transcend dental medication

Loop

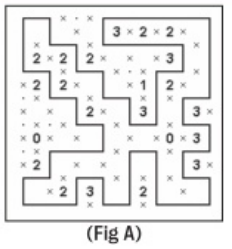
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

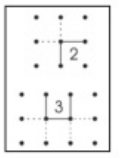
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

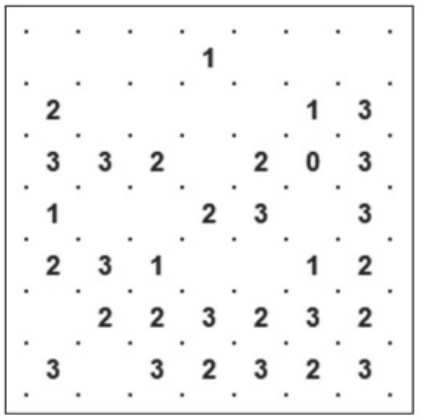
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



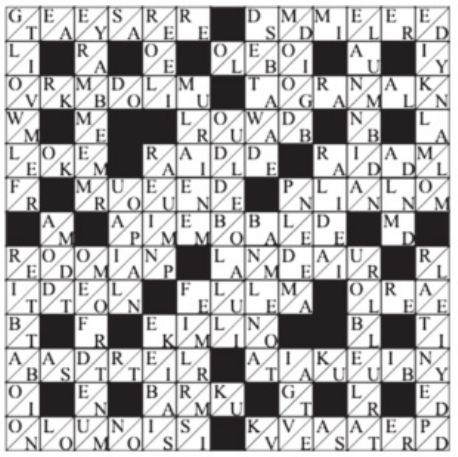
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



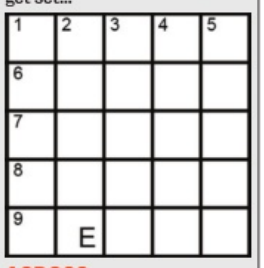
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

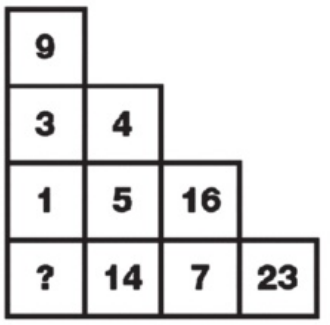
1 R hash; 6 Emile; 7 Sires; 8 Salvo; 9 Len Wy

DOWN

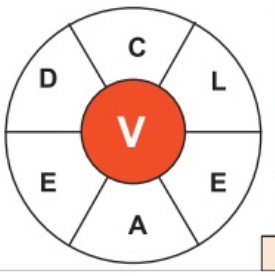
1 Rhone; 2 Evil a; 3 Wears; 4 Mells; 5 Is shy

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the sequence?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; 09 Good; 11 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

6				2			5	
			5		1	3		
4		2			3	8		
			8	1		2	7	
	7						4	
	4	8		7	6			
		4	1			5		3
		6	4		2			
	3			8				6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 5
3 8 9 9

Medium = 22
2 5 7 8

Hard = 21
3 9 9 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

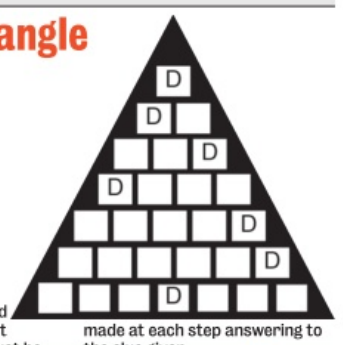
Differences: 1. Window is higher. 2. Back of chair is lower. 3. Woman's hair is different. 4. Apron is smaller. 5. Wheel is smaller. 6. Man's collar is different.

Riddler

What does this mean?
Must get here Must get here Must get here

Alpha triangle

1 Fourth letter
2 Act
3 Curtain holder
4 Plummet
5 Lordly
6 Decanted
7 Create, make

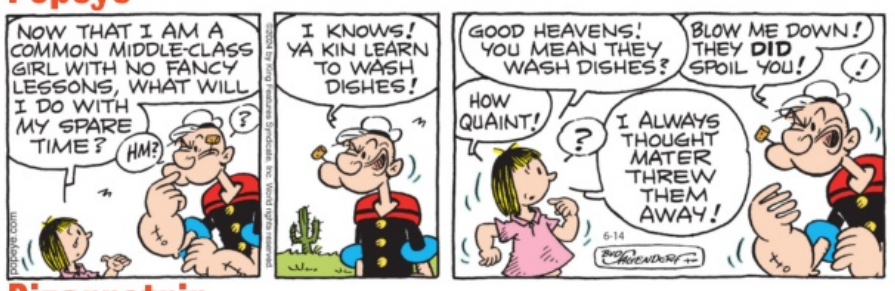


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


NOW THAT I AM A COMMON MIDDLE-CLASS GIRL WITH NO FANCY LESSONS, WHAT WILL I DO WITH MY SPARE TIME?
HM?
I KNOWS! YA KIN LEARN TO WASH DISHES!
GOOD HEAVENS! YOU MEAN THEY WASH DISHES?
BLOW ME DOWN! THEY DID SPOIL YOU!
HOW QUAINT!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT MATER THREW THEM AWAY!
6-14
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

BIZARRO.COM
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Don't wipe your nose on your hand, son. Use your shirtsleeve.
ACHIEVABLE ETIQUETTE
Wayno & Piraro 12·5·24

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

I DO PLAN ON RETIRING SOON. MY JOINTS HURT, AND IT'S GETTING HARDER TO TRAIN THE DOGS.
ESPECIALLY WITH THERESA. SHE SEEMS LESS INTERESTED IN TRAINING THAN THE OTHERS. IN FACT, IT WAS DURING A TRAINING SESSION THAT SHE RAN AWAY.
THEN LET US KEEP HER!!
GOCOMICS.COM/JIMHARTOTHECITY

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Your creativity will be at its peak today, and you may attend a creative event. Stuck money may be recovered. Job seekers should update their knowledge with the latest skills, while students need to put in extra effort in their academics.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may feel sluggish due to lack of sleep, which could scatter your focus and affect work efficiency. A visit to a religious place may be on your mind. However, by the evening, blessings from elders will help you identify mistakes and make better plans for the future. Take care of your parents' health.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel rushed today, so drive carefully. With elders' blessings, you will overcome difficulties. Romance is in the air, bringing harmony to your love life. New partnerships may bring positive results. Lovebirds will enjoy happy moments, and students may receive good news regarding their studies.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Your subordinate staff will be supportive, helping you complete pending tasks. Attending a social event may expand your network, benefiting both your professional and personal life. An outing with friends is possible, and past disputes with them may be resolved. Students should avoid being careless.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Avoid unnecessary spending, as it could impact your savings. Expecting too much from others may lead to disappointment, and strain relationships. Be mindful of your words, especially during family discussions, to maintain harmony.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You will feel energetic and strong, allowing you to complete tasks efficiently, which brings happiness. Helping others with advice may boost your prestige. You will maintain a good balance between work and home life. Those in import-export, trading, or strategy-related fields will likely perform well.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may get lost in fantasy, leading to indecisiveness and distraction. This could impact ongoing projects and finances. Stay practical and avoid daydreaming to keep things on track.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You are blessed by the Moon today, and small investments may bring big profits. Your efficiency at work will increase, leading to success with minimal effort. Positive news in legal matters is likely. You will also have control over rivals and opponents.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Your small efforts will yield success, and past investments may bring good profits. Recognition for your hard work in both professional and personal life will boost your prestige. You may introduce new innovations in business. Disputes with your spouse may finally be resolved.

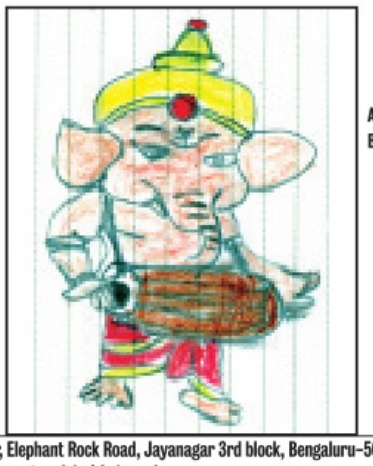
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You will feel better today as situations come under control. Your professional network may help you at work. An overseas trip may be on your mind. Domestic harmony and love life will improve. Your creativity may lead you to bring home artistic or decorative items. A movie or outing with friends and family is likely.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Overworking may lead to exhaustion, laziness, and carelessness. Maintain patience and avoid adventure trips for now. Past investments may not yield returns as expected. Students need to put in extra effort. Take care of your health, as back pain, nervous system issues, liver problems, or skin concerns may arise.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Creativity will be high, and you may plan to renovate your home or office, which could enhance your social status. Harmony with your spouse will bring peace to domestic life. Disputes with friends, colleagues, and partners may be resolved. Good news in legal matters is likely.

KIDZONE

Ayat Ahmed, Bengaluru



Akhilesh, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(50/100) / 1/2 = 1/1 = 1
(2·50/100) / 1 = 100/100/1 =

BULL'S EYE
calve, cave, caved, cleave, CLEAVED, delve, evade, lave, leave, vale, veal

STRIKE OUT

FAST FIVE

H	A	R	S	H
E	L	E	M	I
R	I	S	E	S
O	V	A	L	S
N	E	W	L	Y

RIDDLER
Three Musketeers

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
10. Working in columns, the sum of the numbers in each column equals 23.

QUOTE UNCODE
People want economy and they will pay any price to get it.

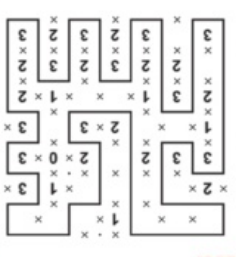
SUDOKU

6	1	3	7	2	8	9	5	4
4	5	2	6	9	3	8	1	7
7	8	9	5	4	1	3	6	2
5	9	6	4	3	2	7	8	1
8	2	4	1	6	7	5	9	3
9	4	8	2	7	6	1	3	5
2	7	1	3	5	9	6	4	8
3	6	5	8	1	4	2	7	9
1	3	7	9	8	5	4	2	6

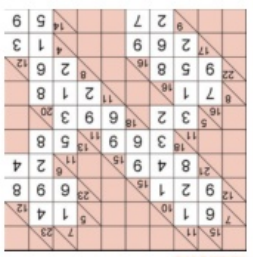
ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, Do, Rod, Drop, Proud, Poured, Produce.

GO FIGURE
8 + 9 - 9 - 3 = 5
Easy
2 + 8 + 5 + 7 = 22
Medium
3 - 9 + 9 x 7 = 21
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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Is age just a number?

Bebo, Gillian get talking about many issues including cosmetic surgeries and pressure to maintain looks

Cosmetic surgery is very common in the entertainment industry. Many actors do feel a lot of pressure to look perfect and stay young. Now, two divas from Bollywood and Hollywood, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Gillian Anderson recently came together for a compelling conversation.

Bebo recently engaged in a candid conversation with Hollywood actor Gillian Anderson for Dirty Magazine. The two actors delved into topics ranging from their roles in films to the portrayal of intimacy in their respective industries. A significant part of their discussion revolved around societal and industry pressures on actors to maintain their appearance, often through cosmetic procedures, to remain relevant.

Gillian Anderson reflected on the evolving opportunities for women in television, noting a marked improvement since her early days in the 1990s. She highlighted how women of diverse ages and body types are now leading TV shows. However, she pointed out that cinema still lags behind in this regard. "If you consider the number of women who have truly headlined films in Hollywood, the figure is still disappointingly small," she remarked.

Anderson also addressed the double-edged sword faced by actors regarding physical appearance. She explained that while some choose to undergo cosmetic enhancements to fit industry standards or maintain a youthful look, they often face harsh judgement from tabloids. Simultaneously, those who decide against such procedures may find themselves excluded from certain opportunities. "It's much kinder than it used to be, but the struggle remains," she added.

Kareena offered her perspective on beauty and ageing, expressing a preference for embracing natural changes. "I think it's a personal choice. I mean, I enjoy a few lines here and there on my face. I think it kind of looks sexy. Somehow, I feel happier in my 40s than I was in my 20s. I just want it to take its natural course. I'm not old yet, so I'm still rocking."

—ETimes

Does she remind you of anyone?

Deepika Padukone recently made heads turn as she appeared at the Paris Fashion Week. Deepika who is the global ambassador for Louis Vuitton was there at the Fashion Week representing the brand. She looked stunning in a white oversized coat with black heels and gloves. She made this look even better with a hat, scarf and bold red lips. The actress got a lot of praise for her looks, but she was yet again compared to Rekha.

Earlier, Deepika made her comeback post delivering her baby girl, with Sabyasachi's show on the 25th anniversary of the brand. Her look drew comparisons with Rekha.

And now yet again, people feel that Deepika is giving Rekha vibes. Fashion police Diet Sabya shared this video on the gram and wrote, "The Rekhafication of Deepu continues."

Diet Sabya then dropped various looks of Rekha on story, thus, comparing Deepika to her The internet showered love on the actress as this video went viral. A user said, "mother is motheringggg".

—ETimes

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

Lady in white

10 Tamannaah looks to inspire you to create add a dash of white in your wardrobe

Back to school

Bollywood actress Bhumi Pednekar didn't think being back to school could be so fun after she visited the Harvard Kennedy School.

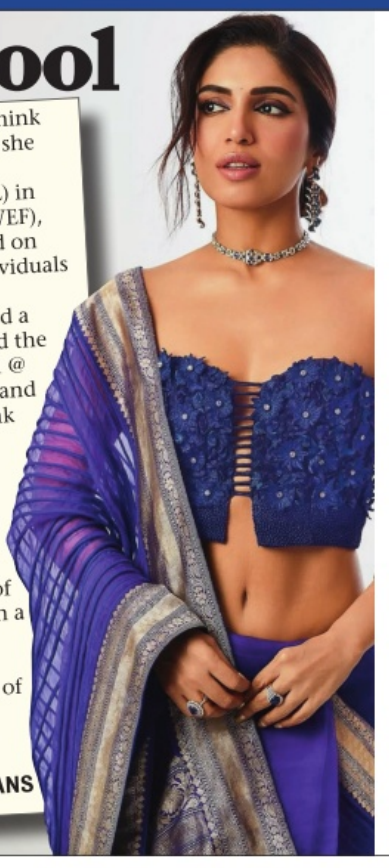
Invited as a Young Global Leader (YGL) in association with the World Economic Forum (WEF), she was attending an exclusive program focused on Leadership and Global Policy, designed for individuals driving change across industries.

Bhumi took to Instagram, where she dropped a gamut of images from the school and captioned the picture as: "Have had the most amazing week 1 @ harvardkennedyschool ,learning global policy and leadership in the 21st century. Didn't ever think being back to school could be such fun. Along with my other young global leaders, all of whom are so brilliant #YGL @worldeconomicforum."

As part of this intensive program, she is engaging with global leaders, policymakers, and academics to deepen her understanding of governance, policy-making, and leadership on a global scale.

Recently, Bhumi celebrated six years of 'Sonchiriya'. As the drama completed 6 years of release, she dropped a couple of behind-the-scenes photographs from the movie with her late co-star Sushant Singh Rajput on her Instagram.

— IANS



SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Set to go to places?

Many actors from Sandalwood have made it big in Kollywood and Tollywood. Now, Rajavardhan, the son of veteran actor Dingri Nagaraj, is set to debut in Tollywood.

According to reliable sources, Rajavardhan has been busy travelling to Hyderabad and Chennai and is in talks with some Tamil and Telugu movie producers and directors.

"I was in Hyderabad to discuss with a well-known movie production house that is set to bankroll a big-budget movie with a leading actor in the pivotal role. They have asked me to play the villain in the movie that is scheduled to go on floors shortly. I do not want to reveal the name of the movie production house and the lead actor before an official announcement is made," said Rajavardhan.

Rajavardhan debuted as a hero in Sandalwood with Bicchugatti - Chapter 1 that was released in February 2020. His latest film Gajarama released on February 7.

Romantic movie

Director PC Shekhar is back with a romantic thriller after a gap of two years. Shekhar handled the megaphone for Love Birds that was released in February 2023. Now, he has directed BAD, a romantic drama. Its shooting is already wrapped up and post-production works are in progress.

A love song – Nee Baruve Antha Naa Kaadu Kuntha – of the movie was released recently through Jhankar Music. Arjun Janya, known as magician of music, scored music for the song while Sarigama fame Prithvi Bhat sung it. Kaviraj wrote the lyrics.

SR Venkatesh Gowda has bankrolled the movie. Preethiya Rayabhari fame Nakul Gowda plays the lead while Manvita Harish is paired opposite him.

"The song has become popular among music lovers. It narrates the mental status of the heroine while waiting for her lover. The specialty of the movie is that it showcases six characters that represent six enemies such as anger, lust, intoxication, illusion, envy, and fear. We have released the movie's teaser recently. The audio and teaser have become popular," said director PC Shekhar.